

## CONFORMITY TO THE GOSPEL.

BY W. A. WELTY.

Glancing at the world and her vanities we are astonished how things are degenerating and how people are deviating from the Gospel and religion of Jesus Christ.

If Christ's example and teaching is too humiliating for us to practice and obey we will come short of enjoying his presence in the heaven of rest.

It is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail. Luke 26, 17. What will be the answer of those who have come short of doing that which he has taught.

When the great day of final reckoning comes and the books shall be opened and the question asked, "have you kept my commandments and walked in the foot steps of Christ?" I think they will be like the man who appeared at the wedding feast without the wedding garment on, they will not answer a word. Then they shall be deprived of that welcome plaudit, come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Matt. xxv, 34.

I believe that true and strict obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that by which we may build up and and enlarge the Brethren church. I believe in teaching and pushing the doctrine of the Brethren church which is the Bible and all its plain teachings, and not deviating one particle from it, and not to compromise with other beliefs. For if we say we believe in Christ and all his teachings and the keeping of all the ordinances as he has delivered them to us. If we begin to give way to false doctrines that doubt the least of God's word, undoubtedly this will show we are in doubt of the real truth of our doctrine.

Take for example, baptism; we believe that trine immersion is the mode of baptism that was taught and practiced by Christ and the apostles, and the primitive church. Now without any doubt this is the form Christ intended. If Christ would have said baptized them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, then we might believe that single immersion was the form; but since he has said baptize

them in the name of the Father and the name of the Son and the name of the Holy Ghost, and the rendering and the construction of the great commission, the proofs from church history and many other proofs, we believe trine immersion to be the form intended by Christ to be practiced, and he has said, I have a baptism to be baptized with.

Now if we admit members to the church on single immersion; a baptism which was introduced over fourteen hundred years since the time of Christ. Why this would show to the world that we are completely in doubt of our mode of baptism. Then if we say that it is all right for an infant to be baptized, then we do away with *believers* baptism. We know that a child cannot have faith and believe.

Therefore we do away with the great fact spoken by Christ himself. He that believes and is baptized, shall be saved. Mark. xxvi, 16

We have heard ministers say, well if you want the child baptized all right with me, if it does no good it will do no harm. This seems to me to be mere mockery. For it is said we shall neither add to or take away from his word.

Therefore let us be more careful in teaching and preaching the doctrine of Jesus Christ.

Let us be more zealous in the cause of Christ and the upbuilding of his kingdom here below, and press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling which is in Christ Jesus. Strive to enter in at the straight gate, for what is this world to us in comparison to the never ending world which we are so swiftly approaching? Why it is as the Psalmist David says, this life is but a hand's breadth, then why not improve so short a time and live in obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and in submission to him who is the Creator of our being, and be rewarded by enjoying his presence through all eternity?  
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How marvelous the gracious provision that two agreed in prayer can thus prevail with the great Jehovah! And how marvelous that we should be counted worthy to be one of the prevailing number!

## KEEP YOUR WORD.

Heredity may be made altogether too much of a scape goat. A child develops, for instance, a most unaccountable habit of lying or deceit. The parents are distressed and charge the blame to some remote ancestor. At the same time they are unconsciously teaching prevarication by breaking promises made to the child.

"Be a good boy," says the mother, "and you shall go to drive with papa this afternoon."

The child struggles bravely to fulfill the condition. To him the hours of waiting seem like days. At length the eagerly anticipated time arrives, and the parents drive gaily off, comforting the sobbing boy with a promise to bring him some candy. Possibly this pledge also they fail to fulfill.

President Lincoln was exceedingly strict in keeping faith with his children, and required the same fidelity in others. At one time a visitor at the White House persuaded little Tad to sit on his knee by promising as a reward the charm on his watch chain. Shortly after, as the man was about to dismiss the child with no further thought of the lightly-spoken promise, the President said sternly,

"Give him the charm, sir!" In confusion the man obeyed the bidding.

Lord Holland, the father of Charles James Fox, once told his boy that he should witness the pulling down of a stone-wall on the estate. Forgetting his promise, he had the masonry restored after it was demolished, that he might not fail in keeping his word to his son. Such scrupulous regard for the truth on the part of parents will go far towards counteracting an inherited tendency to falsehood on the part of children.

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There is no such thing as an entirely free man conceivable. If there were one such being, he would be lost in this great universe, all strung through as it is with obligations, somewhere in the net of which every man must find his place. It is not whether you are free or a servant but whose servant you are, that is the question. This was what Jesus said.—Bishop Brooks.